

## **Lt. Governor John Garamendi Comments on Coordinated, Safe Approach to Clean-Up of Fire-Ravaged San Diego Neighborhoods**

San Diego- After a meeting of state and local leaders in San Diego, Garamendi issued the following statement touting the Angora Fire Clean-Up Model, which saves time, money and curbs fraud, as a viable option for reconstruction.

“After a major disaster, homeowners face the daunting challenge of cleaning up their properties before they can begin rebuilding their lives. The successful community clean-up effort undertaken after the Angora fire in South Lake Tahoe this past June offers homeowners, insurers, and state and local agencies a streamlined approach that saves time, money, and headaches in the critical weeks ahead.

“Following the Angora fire, State and El Dorado County officials orchestrated a successful, coordinated clean-up effort which cleared hazardous debris from 260 burned properties within 40 days, a dramatic improvement from previous disasters where clean-up has taken months. The coordinated effort allowed fire survivors to achieve the first step in the reconstruction process quickly, efficiently and safely.

“I am pleased to see that San Diego city and county officials are in discussions to embark on a similar community effort which would allow homeowners to avoid the time-intensive process of screening contractors, protect homeowners from price-gouging and potential fraud by unscrupulous contractors. Such an approach has the additional benefits of cost-effectiveness for insurers and achieving environmental quality assurances from state regulators as part of the coordinated process.

“I will continue to work to bring together federal, state and local agencies as now face with

the tremendous challenge of rebuilding. In spite of dramatic losses, and the difficult weeks and months we expect ahead, by pooling resources, working together and learning from past models of success, Californians will overcome.&quot;

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